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SOURCE

Chen-kou Chih-min-ti Wen-p'i (Postwar Colonial Questions).
(Information requested.)

HISTORY OF THE VIET NAM INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

The following information is from an article, originally
appearing in the 9 July 46 issue of the Masses' Daily republished
March 1947.

The Viet Nam independence revolution under the leadership of the Viet
Nam Communist Party has laid a firm foundation. In the half year following
the Japanese surrender, the Vietnamese not only disarmed 50,000 Japanese
troops, but also defeated the British and French allied armies scores of
times. In control of large regions, the Viet Nam People's Army began to
realize the duty of struggling on a fight-and-produce basis, as in the
liberated areas of China.

The Viet Nam Autonomous Government now has at least 300,000 regular
troops and 1,500,000 militia in reserve, in addition to a number of arsenals
which can produce rifles, machine guns, and hand grenades. There are a
large number of political and military cadre, and many engineers, physicians,
lawyers, educators, and cultural leaders. Their leader, Ho Chi Minh (a
Communist Party Member), has united democratic elements, and all ethnic
groups in Viet Nam, in support of the Autonomous Government, which has
already mobilized the entire population.

When Japan surrendered, Chiang's KMT reactionaries took advantage
of the ease with which their troops could enter north Viet Nam and set
up two regimes in that area. One was the People's Government of [North ?]
Viet Nam, headed by the anti-Communist Japanese collaborator Nguyen Hai
Than; the other was called the Viet Nam National Party's Provisional
Government headed by Ts'ai Chin-hung [Ueda 10080; 3194; 14446].
Neither regime had a basic hold on the masses.

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At first the KMT reactionaries greatly desired that these two non-popular governments arrange a tripartite division of the country with Ho Chi Minh's government. This was refused by Ho. Then they threatened to reorganize the Autonomous Government and make a three-sided coalition government, which idea also was rejected. Finally, they insisted on dragging their two puppets into Ho Chi Minh's government, to supervise and hamstring its moves from within.

Later, the KMT reactionaries prepared a list of leftist officials in the Autonomous Government, threatening to make Ho dismiss them. Ho replied to this threat with a general election. In December 1945 a nationwide election gave leftist candidates complete victory, and Nguyen Hai Than and Ts'ai were eliminated by popular expression of opinion. After this, the conflict sharpened. Chiang's KMT troops stationed in north Viet Nam were a heavy burden on the Viet Nam government. They made KMT paper currency issued in China the legal tender for forced transactions in north Viet Nam and caused economic distress and financial chaos there.

Before Chiang's troops withdrew, they supplied weapons to the Viet Nam National Party.

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